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WEEKEND

Best bets

WINE COUNTRY

The Barrio Logan Winery hosts its first Grape Stomp from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday at 3030 Main St., Barrio Logan. Teams of four can participate in the competition, stomping grapes in a vat in 15-minute intervals to squish out the most juice and win a check for \$300 for the non-profit of their choice. Tickets

CAMPO

County to close Juvenile Ranch Facility

Buildings were part of historic Army camp

By Anne Krueger
STAFF WRITER

The county Probation Department is planning to shut down a camp for delinquent boys in Campo.

About 150 boys at Campo's Juvenile Ranch Facility, most 16 years old and younger, will be moved to Camp Barrett in Barrett Lake in January, Chief Probation

Officer Mack Jenkins said. The boys at Camp Barrett, who are generally 16 and 17 years old, will be moved to the former medium-security jail at Descanso.

Shutting down the Campo facility will save the county about \$7.9 million over five years in maintenance costs and \$300,000 annually in operation costs, Jenkins said.

There are no plans for the Campo facility, and Jenkins said persistent rumors in the backcountry that the federal government will use the facility to house undocumented aliens are not true.

The Sheriff's Department closed the 440-bed Descanso jail in May. Sheriff's of-

ficials said it was too expensive to operate because it relied on a septic system and has higher transportation costs for the 30-mile trip from Descanso to courts in San Diego.

Jenkins said the Probation Department is not expecting similar problems with the Descanso facility's septic system because no more than 168 youths will be housed there instead of more than 400 inmates.

The Campo facility is made up of two camps: Rancho Del Rayo and Rancho Del Campo, which offer programs for drug and alcohol abuse and to address behavioral issues. Youths are committed to the

camp for up to a year.

The buildings in the camp were originally constructed as part of Camp Lockett, a World War II Army camp that was the last home of the Buffalo Soldiers, the famed African-American cavalymen. Camp Lockett was recently declared a state historic landmark, although the designation does not include the youth camp.

Roger Challberg, a Lake Morena resident who has been pushing for a park at Camp Lockett, said the buildings at the Juvenile Ranch Facility have been well-preserved, and he hopes whoever takes over the facility continues to maintain them.